

## Easterling, Deborah

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**From:** Easterling, Deborah  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2015 9:03 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Duke power, resent with addition of name

Dear Christel Walker,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your email and attachment will become a part of ND-2015-20-E - Duke Energy Carolinas: Foothills Transmission and Substation Project-45-Mile Transmission Line Between Asheville, NC, Power Plant and New Substation Near Campobello, SC, and will be posted on our website under this docket.

Please let me know if you should require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling  
Administrative Coordinator

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2015 2:23 AM  
**To:** PSC\_Contact  
**Subject:** Duke power, resent with addition of name

Christel Walter,                      Mill Spring NC

Christel Walter, [REDACTED], Mill Spring, NC

I am asking "what if?" What if through our combined efforts at conservation and the progress in efficient power systems we could make the point to Duke Power and the Utility Commission that the proposed high voltage power line is not needed. Not needed in Polk County or anywhere in our section of Western North Carolina

Conservation should be our first line of attack. Duke Power is in the business of providing the electricity we crave and need to sustain our coveted lifestyle. If the company can prove that a 15% increase in capacity is needed in the foreseeable future, it will have to find a way to provide this power. It has been intimated that there is spare capacity, that Duke is planning to sell electricity to other utilities and that there is room for upgrading the existing system. Given these rumors and innuendos it would be well for Duke to show its cards, and honor our request to release its studies documenting the reason and need for this proposed modernization project. But, most important, we can change the parameters through our actions and conservation efforts and in the process turn this plan into a catalyst for greater change.

As others have already pointed out the proposed power line is not only a Polk County problem but a regional problem. I suggest that it is an issue with global implications. It is no secret that the US is the energy hog of the world. We are consuming more than our fair share of resources. Getting started on the little stuff will raise our awareness that what we do matters.

Great strides have been made toward energy reduction even here in the US, most notably the development of energy efficient appliances. If the current energy code is raised to a more ambitious standard, such as the 2012 International Energy Conservation code, we can realize another substantial reduction in energy usage. When including the Department of Energy Zero Energy Ready Home criteria for a building's airtightness, HVAC, lighting and window performance, energy consumption can be reduced by 60% and if solar panels are added the home can become a true Zero Energy Home, one that produces more energy than it consumes in a year. These homes are being built right now, information can be found on the DOE website (energy.gov). The US DOE is also collaborating with National Laboratories, industry and universities promoting technological innovation and changes. Its Better Buildings Initiative aims to make all buildings 20% more energy efficient over the next decade.

I invite you to check out the US Energy Administration Information (EIA) website in particular their bulletin *Today in Energy* of March 2013 head lined *U.S. economy and electricity demand growth are linked, but relationship is changing*. The forecast looks to 2040 and it clearly makes the case for a slowing growth in electricity use: "While there is always uncertainty about future electricity demand, the efficiency standards for lighting and other appliances that have been in place for the last few years will continue to put downward pressure on growth as new equipment is added and existing stock is replaced. For example a new refrigerator purchased today uses less than a third as much electricity as one purchased in the late 1970s despite the larger size of today's refrigerators."

What I am saying is that efficient appliances, innovative and improved building technologies and elimination of some of our own personal wastefulness will reduce our power consumption by a lot more

than 15 percent. Looking to the future it appears that the project that is being proposed is outdated before it goes on line.